Dear IFHOHYP members, volunteers and activists!

IFHOHYP wishes you every happiness this Holiday Season and throughout the New Year!

Wishing you success in your lives and your organizations, kind energy and inspiration in any work you do and share with others, creative ideas & great projects in the coming year! May the year be so nice that you would not want to part with it on 31.12.2009! :)
Season’s Greetings,
IFHOHYP Board

Congratulations to...

Yana Domuschieva (Bulgaria-US), an active IFHOHYP volunteer, IFHOHYP study session'2006 team member, Coordinator of Multimedia production project, got a job! – a Development Associate position at Public Interest Law Institute in New York, USA.
IFHOHYP recommended Yana for this position.
Yana also consults as a prospect researcher at human rights NGOs.

IFHOHYP Board wishes all the best to Yana Domuschieva in her new work and in all her endeavours!

Derra Daouda (Burkina Faso), leader of IFHOHYP member organisation Association du Sourds du Faso, received official appraisal from Burkina Faso government on December 15th, 2008. The authorities recognized his work and efforts for deaf and hard of hearing people.

Keep up the great work, Daouda!

Call for volunteers

Dear friends,
as you may have noticed, both IFHOHYP Newsletter and the website could use some improvement. We search for new people who can:

- submit articles into the Newsletter about life in their organisations. The articles don’t need to be in perfect English.
- help edit and design the Newsletter
- help update the website and start the IFHOHYP blog moving
- come out with new ideas and be ready to put them into reality.

There are many advantages in working together with the Newsletter/Website committee. You will gain deeper insight into how IFHOHYP works. You will improve your English and communication skills. And you will be able to get and share more knowledge about hearing loss.

Please spread this call among members of your organisation.
The EFHOH Board meeting in the Netherlands

By Karina Chupina, IFHOHYP president

The EFHOH Board meeting was held on November 8 in Houten (The Netherlands) in the office of the NVVS Dutch organisation for hard of hearing and facilitated by EFHOH President Marcel Bobeldijk. IFHOHYP was represented by Karina Chupina. Among the issues raised at the EFHOH meeting, were:

- Evaluation EFHOH of the IFHOH world congress Vancouver
- EFHOH strategy on Women and Girls
- EFHOH strategy on Youth
- EFHOH action plan for the next IFHOH World Congress 2012 in Oslo, Norway
- EFHOH Programme for 2009

Dutch guests from SHJO (IFHOHYP member organisation) were invited to attend the last part of the meeting – Christi Menheere, IFHOHYP treasurer, and Lianne de Jonge, IFHOHYP Board member, both from Holland. It was a very good idea to have the opportunity to introduce both national and international HoH youth organizations and their activities to the EFHOH Board and Dutch NVVS delegates.

As we already informed you in the last newsletter, two hard of hearing delegates are represented in the European Disability Forum Committees – Karina Chupina in the Youth Committee and Anna Klemettila in the Women’s Committee, both on behalf of EFHOH. In connection with this, we were asked to prepare a strategy on Youth and Women issues for EFHOH accordingly.

The draft strategy on Women by Anna suggested two main goals:

1. **To get information on the life situation of the hard of hearing women.**
   The following issues and questions have to be raised here:
   - To recognize the special needs of women who are hard of hearing
   - Level of income compared to hard of hearing men and/or normal hearing women
   - Make surveys within member organizations?
   - What other methods could EFHOH use?
   - What research / studies already exist? (For example, Swedish research 2007 on men’s violence against women with disabilities did not include deaf or hard of hearing women. Instead recently in HRF (Swedish organization) year report 2007 was mentioned: 70% of women in work life are never tested / of men 49
In Danish research on hard of hearing in work life was also some comparisons between men and women

- Literature review of European and international level

2. To develop gender mainstreaming in member organizations to get gender issues visible. For this, what should be done?

- Should EFHOH board get some training on the gender issues? Does EFHOH need some help from an expert in implementation of this part of strategy?
- Is the lack of gender consciousness in organization work one reason for the small amount of research on hard of hearing women?
- Women empowerment groups?
- Studies with measures in member organizations and in EFHOH
- The same strategy to all organizations of EFHOH? Challenge existing power structures within organizations? How do the organizations differ from each other?
- Showing power relations, how power is constructed
- Which arguments speak in favor of women’s participation:
  - In order to help women
  - In order to make use of women’s competence
  - In order to share power

For IFHOHYP, EFHOH strategy on youth would be of the major importance. In my draft strategy on Youth I tried to reflect the aims of EFHOH and to integrate the IFHOHYP Strategic plan for the next 5 years. Below is the excerpt from the draft strategy on Youth:

**EFHOH aim is** to protect the interests of persons in Europe who are hard of hearing or who have become deaf, and their families (i.e. persons who suffer from a hearing disorder, and who use speech as means of communication, persons who suffer from Tinnitus or Ménière’s syndrome, and those who have undergone a cochlear implantation).

Keeping in mind the aim of EFHOH, EFHOH cooperation with IFHOHYP and the IFHOHYP Strategy plan, the possible **EFHOH Mission on Youth** can be:

- To help HoH youth to empower their capacities and to help increase the effectiveness of their actions,
- Through cooperation with youth, to consolidate EFHOH work in political, educational and information areas of action

**Possible EFHOH Vision on Youth:**

Hard of hearing adults and youth united in common aims and committed to increasing quality of life for HoH people in Europe.
**Needs assessment**

The power of youth is underestimated or misused. They should be seen as a resource in adult organizations and multipliers who will become future EFHOH activists. Youth should be empowered as positive agents of change. Youth often works isolated and needs encouragement, and opportunities to meet and express their ideas.

**EFHOH possible strategic and operational goals**  
in relation to youth (2009-2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic goals</th>
<th>Operational goals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Increased coordination between EFHOH and IFHOHYP | Interactive communication channels – such as a blog on IFHOHYP website  
Facilitation of space for exchange of ideas & experiences |
| Increased involvement of youth in EFHOH | Mapping the HoH youth groups in EFHOH adult organizations  
Identifying the needs of HoH youth in adult organizations through survey / meetings at national/local level (social, political and professional needs) |
| Mainstreaming youth in all EFHOH proposals, position and policy papers | Lobbying with involvement of young people and consultation with IFHOHYP on relevant issues  
Forming the committee in IFHOHYP/ establishing a representative person in IFHOHYP to work with EFHOH |
| EFHOH active participation in lobbying on the European level | EFHOH increased participation in the EDF Youth committee |
| Supporting IFHOHYP research on situation of HoH young people across Europe | Disseminating information on research in member organizations and urging adult organizations to encourage young people to participate  
Sharing tools to motivate young people to participate in the research  
Good practices and lessons learnt in developing networks at a regional, national and global level are collected |

The work on this strategy is in progress, and you can contribute to it. The final Youth Strategy plan will be adopted at the EFHOH AGM 2009 on 23-26 April.

**If you have more suggestions and comments on how young people can best be involved in EFHOH + in European disability work, please feel free to send me an email at karina.chupina[at]gmail.com. Your contribution will be very helpful to IFHOHYP and EFHOH and will be much appreciated!**

- 5 -
"HOPE is the DOOR of STRUGGLE that eventually bring SUCCESS" (Akram)

On 30th August 2008 in Karachi the seminar for deaf and hard of hearing people took place. It was organized by Pakistan's organisation of disabled people Danishkadah, by Zara Husain and Muhammad Akram. The aim of the seminar was to exchange experience with assistive technology for deaf and hard of hearing people, in Pakistan and developing countries.

Zara Husain graduated with an MSc in Technology in Special Education from the prestigious Johns Hopkins University, USA in May 2008. She had two years of work experience in its primary schools and Office for students with Disabilities. She is intent on starting a PhD in Special Education in the spring of 2009. On her recent visit to Pakistan Ms Husain has successfully established a School for language & technology integration in the Lahore speech clinic that her mother has been running since 2001.

Muhammad Akram is the founder and chairman of DANISHKADAH, a non profit organization for the empowerment and leadership of people with disabilities. He has more than 7 years experience in disability movement and received training on web base networking and accessible web from Asia Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) Thailand, and Leadership training from IFHOHYP and European Youth Center. His book on "information accessibility" and other papers are well received. His future dream is to build a "knowledge park" where Information and Assistive Technologies will be employed to empower persons with disability and deafness.
Hearing Loss: an Introduction

Mr. Akram gave a presentation on "Hearing Loss: an introduction" in which he explained the differences between Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Late deafened people, and introduced International NGOs that represents each group. He said that in the past we support deaf but ignored other groups.

Deaf & Dumb

Next, Ms. Zara Husain began her keynote address with the term "Deaf and Dumb". She showed a presentation with a short video from Lahore on a government supported deaf institution, "Gung Mahal, School for the Deaf and Dumb," where the school is based in Lahore. She has condemned the use of Deaf and Dumb in all set ups of educational and social organizations for the Deaf, by saying that we are all equal, and we should try to convince the government to delete the use of Deaf and Dumb.

Cochlear Implant

Mr. Mujahid Zuberi, father of Hayyan, (a deaf boy who got Cochlear Implant (CI) talked about their experience. Hayyan is doing great after having his CI. He is 8 year old now and his progress in school is very well. He mentioned that both he and his wife, have put a lot of effort on developing their son's speech. Answering to a question from the audience, he admitted that CI is very expensive, cost about 15 hundred thousand rupees, and there is no support from anywhere, and parents have to arrange the funds on their own.

Barrier Free Information Highway:

Mr. Akram gave a presentation on the barriers of Information exchange, first he explained that assistive technologies is not a solution alone, we also need an accessible environment and positive attitude along with the assistive technologies. He gave some examples about which barriers exist and how to solve them. He recommends that:
1. Government must ensure that all governmental websites are accessible for all,

2. Make policies that all public service websites must be accessible. He stressed that politics and legislations are important to bring a positive change.

**Assistive / Information Technology in Education**

In the keynote address, Zara Husain highlighted important summaries on the definition of Assistive Technology, the legislations and policy on Assistive Technology in Pakistan and USA, saying that USA has a law passed on Assistive technology and the use of Assistive technology in education, but in Pakistan, there is a National Policy mentioning only two paragraphs on Information and Assistive Technology.

**Promoting AT and IT in developing countries**

In this presentation Akram gave an example for Thailand that there an organization developing assistive devices. And according to them instead of a device that costs $100 dollars in USA they developed same device just in $10 Dollars. Akram said, why can't we do the same, we have talented engineers, when collaborating with universities it is possible to develop low cost assistive devices locally.

Danishkadah launched an online accessible web development course for beginners, please check this web page for detail:

http://www.danishkadah.org.pk/Projects/training_AWeb/index.html

Adapted from

http://www.danishkadah.org.pk/activities/events/080830-CH/program.html
Beginning 12 July 2006, and for more than a month thereafter, the citizens of Northern Israel were under fire. The war between Israel and the non-state, armed political group “Hezbollah” erupted into a regional conflict. Israeli and Lebanese people suffered, many deaf and hard-of-hearing people among them.

I would like to share with you what I learned from my Israeli colleagues working in the Israeli Bekol organization for hard-of-hearing and deafened persons. How did they face the war? How did they reach out to hard-of-hearing and deaf people? How did they help them cope with the crisis?

Bekol is active in pushing legislation and legal rights, demanding accessibility to public work places and institutions, and removal of stigmas and prejudices towards people with hearing loss. At the outset of war, they reacted immediately and went right into action reaching out to help the hard of hearing and deaf communities in areas under fire, as well as victims who suffered from hearing injuries. Emergency letters from Bekol were spread out on the website and by post to 8,000 hard of hearing and deaf across the country.

The Bekol emergency letters revealed that hard-of-hearing and deaf people were in double jeopardy: first, because of the physical threats, and second, because of their hearing limitations. These limitations meant people had difficulty hearing warning sirens when sleeping at night (and without hearing aids); difficulty in gaining accurate information from the media; and, last but not the least, difficulty in communicating with others in their immediate surroundings.

Bekol took the urgent action to assist in coping with threats. First action was dealing with the lack of subtitles on news and television. In 2005, a law was passed that required all television broadcasts to include subtitles for the deaf and hard of hearing. But it was not yet fully enforced. As emergency broke out this summer, Bekol requested that the three major Israeli networks include subtitles in all news broadcasts.

Another crucial step dealt with the difficulty of hearing Air Raid Sirens. Bekol activists claim that despite experience gained from the Gulf War, Israel’s civil defense effort was slow in responding to citizens' needs. Many deaf and hard-of-hearing people were unable to hear the air raid sirens intended to direct them to move into shelters. After Bekol’s pressure on the Civil Defense Command, hard of hearing and deaf people were provided with special air raid
Beepers which operate both with SMS written messages and vibration. Afterwards, the delay between sirens and beeper alerts had to be minimized.

A hard-of-hearing person needs to be fully "armed" and prepared for facing the unexpected: to have a spare hearing aid, and to have fresh batteries for it, as well as a flashlight for lip reading. At the outset of hostilities, Bekol sent out special instructions on how to prepare for emergency situations, to the community and translated these into Arabic, Russian, Amharic, French, English, and Spanish.

What greatly impressed me, was the creation of a working Emergency Hotline for people with hearing loss and their families. Bekol set up an 24-hour emergency hotline using telephone, fax, and e-mail for hard of hearing and deaf people. Luckily, no hard of hearing or deaf people were injured or killed during attacks - and that's largely owing to Bekol's initiatives.

"How do you get the people involved?" I kept wondering, imagining the scope of such an activity. "This is one of the things Bekol is very proud of," admits Oren Dovoskin, who is a hard of hearing member of Bekol. He spent the majority of recent emergency period at his home up north. "We have been working for years raising public awareness about the needs of people with hearing loss. Once this awareness has been created, it became much easier to bring volunteers in. Bekol has a strong network of volunteers - one person brings another friend. A hard of hearing husband brings in his spouse. We have a good cause, a true cause, so people are interested and willing to help. Thanks people; we can't do all this without you!" he said.

I believe that just by that course of action, the Israel organisation of hard of hearing and deaf enthusiasts played their own part in peacemaking. Oren added: "We hope that in such a situation others will do the same."

Adapted from http://www.i711.com/my711.php?tab=2&article=111

© Copyrighted material, used by permission. This article can not be copied, reproduced, or redistributed without the express written consent of the author.
European Youth Centre Budapest, 15-23 May 2008

In the course participated IFHOHYP members Berna Cibik from Turkey and Rinne Oost from The Netherlands. Aim of the course was developing the competences of trainers active and experienced in youth work for diversity, particularly with minority youth groups, in view of strengthening their capacity to prepare and carry out training activities based on intercultural learning and non-formal education practices. Among the objectives were:

- To develop essential skills for trainers in non-formal education with multicultural and minority youth groups and to raise awareness about quality criteria in their training activities;

- To familiarise participants with the values and ways of working of the Council of Europe and in particular the Directorate of Youth and Sport. Participants should be aware of the potential of European youth programmes.

The ToT was facilitated by trainers Nadine Lyamouri-Bajja (France), Marius Jitea (Romania), Alexandra Raykova (Bulgaria) and Karina Chupina (Russia-Germany).

Rinne shared his experience by answering our questions.

**Can you say something about you, your background and why you decided to apply for this course?**

I work as an outdoor instructor at a company that gives trainings to groups of people. I am also a project manager at SHJO (Dutch organisation of hard of hearing young people) and here I train young people to run the organisation.

I wanted to do the ToT because I want to improve my training skills in Non Formal Education, so I can do more for the SHJO and IFHOHYP.
How many and what kind of participants were there?

There were 30 participants from all over the world. Most of them had no disability and were belonging to minority and ethnic groups, like Roma’s, Kurdish. A lot of them were refugees from other countries. There were also persons who represents gay/lesbian minority groups. There were 2 hard of hearing persons, one deaf person, one blind person, and one person who couldn’t walk. It was a very diverse group with a lot of interesting people.

Was there any experience or knowledge that was new and surprising to you?

At first of all I was surprised about the high level of spoken English. For the most of the participants, English is not the native language, but still the level of English was very high and the discussions were very intensive. It was a big difference with a study session of IFHOHYP for example.

Next surprising thing I learned, are how many skills a trainer needs to be a good trainer. There are so many skills a trainer needs. You need lots of experience to be a really good trainer.

What, in your view, are the characteristics of a good trainer?

A good trainer has knowledge and experience about the contents of the training. A trainer needs this knowledge to share this information or skills with the participants.

Good trainer also has the skills to make contact with the participants so the trainer can really train the participants. I am talking about motivating participants, captivating them, activating people, empathy, and so on.....

Also an important thing is that the trainer has the ability to share the information. In other words, trainer must have didactics skills. A trainer has to know how people learn. Good trainer also has a good self-reflection and the will to learn more by him/herself.

Do you see any differences between trainer and facilitator, or is it the same thing?

Many things are the same. A trainer needs the same skills as a facilitator. A trainer is a facilitator and a facilitator is also a trainer. The difference you can see in the communication-style they have with the participants, the power they have in the group, and the role they play in the task/content.
What would you recommend to the readers interested in becoming a trainer in NGO?

At first place, follow courses like ToT to learn more about the theory. Next thing is to practise a lot and don’t be afraid to do this.

How do you intend to use skills gained on the course?

I really want to improve my skills even more. I will be in the team of the IFHOHYP study session 2009. I can learn even more, and also use my skills I already have, to train other people. In SHJO I am project manager, using the skills gained at ToT to train other young people.

Did your hearing loss resulted in any accessibility barriers and how they were resolved?

There were some difficulties because of my hearing loss. First of all, my English wasn’t that good as other participants. In the beginning I had some problems to understand the contents of discussions. Luckily after a while I knew the meaning of new words so I could understand it better.

An other thing was: I became very tired of listening all the time. People spoke so fast and everybody had a different way of pronunciation. But because there was a velotypist and I used my Phonak smartlink loop system, I could handle it. Fortunately, everybody was friendly and took time to repeat or explained again what they were saying.

Anything you want to add?

Thanks to IFHOHYP for supporting my nomination! Merry Christmas and happy new year!
**The mission of IFHOHYP**

IFHOHYP is committed to promoting equal rights for hard of hearing young people at all levels of the community. We believe that hard of hearing young people have the right to a good education, freedom of choice, the right to equal treatment at labour market, necessary support and technical aids they need to assimilate to life in the hearing community.

- To encourage a better understanding of hard of hearing young people and their problems among the general public.
- To defend the interests of hard of hearing young people and express them towards international bodies.
- To serve as a platform for cooperation and exchange of information between organizations of hard of hearing youth.
- To establish links with organizations of and for hearing-impaired people, improve communication and cultural interchange between all hard of hearing young people worldwide; to receive new information from other international youth or disability organizations and provide with it hard of hearing youths in different countries.
- To collect and make available all information on different aspects of hearing loss, on technical advances, facilities and assistive listening devices for hard of hearing people.

**IFHOHYP Board**

*President:* Karina Chupina (Russia) karina.chupina@gmail.com (and CC: travelmind21@yahoo.com)

*Vice President:* Maria Lopez Garcia (Spain) Logarma6@gmail.com

*Secretary:* Noora Penttinen (Finland) Noora.penttinen@gmail.com

*Treasurer:* Christi Menheere (The Netherlands) Christi-ifhohyp@home.nl

*Flexible board member:* Lianne de Jonge (The Netherlands) lianne.ifhohyp@gmail.com

*Auditor:* Claudio Nicita (Switzerland) nicita@gmx.net

Go and see IFHOHYP at [www.ifhohyp.org](http://www.ifhohyp.org)!

*Newsletter editor:* Juraj Variny (Slovakia) rini17@gmail.com